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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/670,089	09/24/2003	Chun Tsun Chen	14603	6325

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EXAMINER

TRAN, THUY V

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2821

DATE MAILED: 01/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/670,089	Applicant(s) CHEN, CHUN TSUN	
	Examiner Thuy V. Tran	Art Unit 2821	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Request for Reconsideration 11/07/05.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5 and 6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5 and 6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This is a response to the Applicant's Request for Reconsideration submitted on 11/07/2005. In virtue of this request, claims 1-3 and 5-6 remain pending in the instant application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Miller et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,733,482).

With respect to claim 1, Miller et al. discloses, in Fig. 3, a one-to-many compact fluorescent lamp holder comprising (1) a plurality of sockets [32, 33] (see col. 4, line 3), each of which is adapted to receive a compact fluorescent lamp [30, 31] having only one electrical connection end (at the socket; see Fig. 3), (2) a ballast mechanism [12, 13, 14, 34, 35] comprising a ballast circuit [34] therein (see col. 4, line 7), and (3) a plurality of electric wires (inherently since the ballast is connected to the sockets and lamps; see col. 3, lines 20-25 and col. 4, lines 7-8) for electrically connecting the sockets to the ballast circuit [34] so that the contact fluorescent lamps [30, 31], when mounted in each of the sockets [32, 33] will be turned on when an inherent AC power is provided to the ballast circuit (inherent AC power: see col. 2, lines 1-10).

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With respect to claim 2, Fig. 3 of Miller et al. shows that the ballast mechanism [12, 13, 14, 34, 35] comprises a shell [12, 13, 14] for accommodating the ballast circuit [34] therein, said shell comprising a fastening mechanism [12] for non-electrically fastening the shell [12, 13, 14] to a ceiling (see col. 1, line 7).

With respect to claim 3, Miller et al. inherently discloses in Fig. 3 that the sockets [32, 33] are connected to the ballast mechanism [12, 13, 14, 34, 35] by the plurality of wires only (inherently since nothing else is shown in Fig. 3 or described in the specification except a substantial connection between the ballast, the sockets, and the lamps; see col. 3, lines 20-25 and col. 4, lines 7-8).

With respect to claim 5, Miller et al. discloses in Figs. 1 and 3 that said shell [12, 13, 14] is a polygonal hollow body (see Fig. 1), and said fastening mechanism [12] comprises a mounting hole at a center thereof (see Figs. 1 and 3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,733,482) in view of Chang (U.S. Patent No. 6,194,840).

With respect to claim 6, Miller et al. discloses all of the claimed subject matter, as expressly recited in claim 1, except that the ballast circuit comprising an EMI circuit, a rectifying and filter circuit, an inverter circuit, and an output circuit, wherein the EMI circuit is configured

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to be connected with a source of AC power, the rectifying and filter circuit is connected to the EMI circuit and provides a DC current to the inverter circuit, and the inverter circuit and the output circuit provide a high voltage for activating the compact fluorescent lamps and a high frequency AC current to the compact fluorescent lamps for maintaining their stable lighting.

Chang discloses, in Fig. 2, a ballast circuit comprising an EMI circuit [L1, C1], a rectifying and filter circuit [D1, D2, D3, D4, C3], an inverter circuit [Q1, Q2], and an output circuit [17, T1, C4], wherein the EMI circuit [L1, C1] is configured to be connected with an AC power, the rectifying and filter circuit [D1, D2, D3, D4, C3] is connected to the EMI circuit and provides a DC current to the inverter circuit [Q1, Q2], and the inverter circuit and the output circuit provide a high voltage for activating the compact fluorescent lamps and a high frequency AC current to the compact fluorescent lamps for maintaining their stable lighting (see col. 3, line 56 – col. 4, line 54).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the device of Miller et al. by replacing the ballast of Miller et al. with the one taught by Chang for cost savings since such ballast circuit of Chang offers many advantages such as its output voltage remains constant even if the lamp or lamps is/are extinguished or removed, and it is at low cost (see col. 1, lines 56-61 and col. 2, lines 12-14).

Remarks

5. Applicant's arguments, see Request for Reconsideration, filed 11/07/2005, with respect to the rejections of claims 1-3 and 5 under 35 USC 102(b) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,164,797 (Crane et al.) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejections have been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view

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of Miller et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,733,482). See “Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102” above for details).

In regard to the rejection of claim 6 under 35 UCS § 103(a) in view of the combined teachings of Miller et al. and Chang set forth in this Office Action, it is noted that:

- Miler et al. discloses all of the claimed limitations including the ballast [34] but does not provide any electronic parts/components configured therein;
- Chang provides a ballast circuit which is specifically for operating fluorescent lamps with many advantages such as its output voltage remains constant even if the lamp or lamps is/are extinguished or removed, and it is at low cost (see col. 1, lines 56-61 and col. 2, lines 12-14); and
- For such advantages taught by Chang, replacing the ballast of Miller et al. with that of Chang for the benefit of low cost operation of the device of Miller et al. would be an appropriate motivation to a person skilled in the art.

Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thuy V. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-1828. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00 AM -5:00 PM).

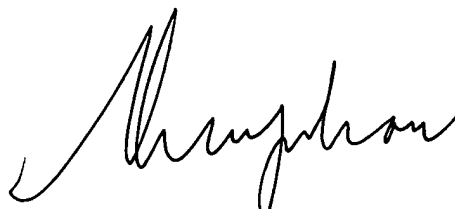
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on (571) 272-1834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

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may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

01/10/2006



THUY V. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER